for

Oct. 4, 1999

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Dr. Jane E. Henney: Commissioner Food and Drug Administration 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 14-71 Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney,

I would like to take this opportunity to ask that you take whatever action is required to ban the unnecessary use of antibiotics to promote the growth of livestock, especially those drugs that are used to treat humans. Animals repeated exposure to these drugs is allowing resistant strains of bacteria to evolve, which humans are consuming through the food and drinking water supply. This practice poses a serious threat to human's ability to combat many diseases that can be life threatening.

If the use of antibiotics in industrial-style livestock production is part of the cause of the increasing number of cases in which physicians are finding drugs to be ineffective in the treatment of infectious disease, then it needs to stop. I hope we are not taking a chance in risking human lives in order to promote the economic welfare of the livestock industry and drug manufacturers.

Please consider the health and welfare of human beings and observe the recommendations of such organizations such as the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Public Health Association in banning the use of antibiotics as growth promoters in livestock.

Thank you,

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